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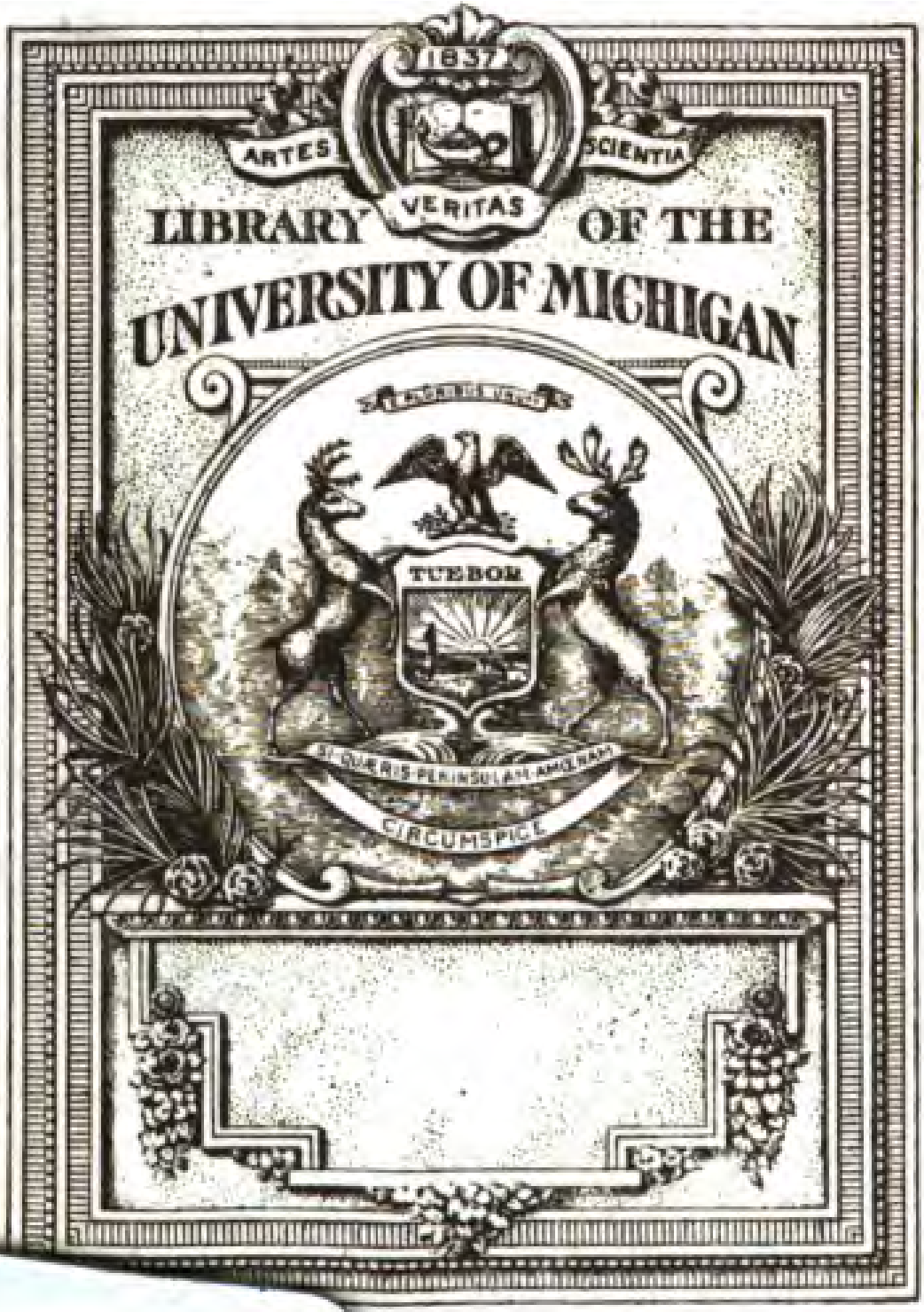

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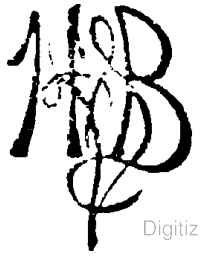

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MODERN ENGLAND

1820–1874

BY

OSCAR BROWNING, M.A.

SENIOR FELLOW OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

NEW YORK

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LIST OF PRIME MINISTERS

From 1820 to 1874.

Lord Liverpool.....	from	May	1812	to April	1827
Mr. George Canning.....	"	April	1827	" Aug.	1827
Lord Goderich.....	"	Aug.	1827	" Jan.	1828
Duke of Wellington.....	"	Jan.	1828	" Nov.	1830
Lord Grey.....	"	Nov.	1830	" July	1834
Lord Melbourne.....	"	July	1834	" Nov.	1834
Sir Robert Peel.....	"	Dec.	1834	" April	1835
Lord Melbourne.....	"	April	1835	" Aug.	1841
Sir Robert Peel.....	"	Aug.	1841	" July	1846
Lord John Russell.....	"	July	1846	" Feb.	1852
Lord Derby.....	"	Feb.	1852	" Dec.	1852
Lord Aberdeen.....	"	Dec.	1852	" Feb.	1855
Lord Palmerston.....	"	Feb.	1855	" Feb.	1858
Lord Derby.....	"	Feb.	1858	" June	1859
Lord Palmerston.....	"	June	1859	" Nov.	1865
Earl Russell.....	"	Nov.	1865	" June	1866
Lord Derby.....	"	June	1866	" Feb.	1868
Mr. Disraeli.....	"	Feb.	1868	" Dec.	1868
Mr. Gladstone.....	"	Dec.	1868	" Feb.	1874
Mr. Disraeli (Lord Beaconsfield).....	"	Feb.	1874		

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MODERN ENGLAND.

INTRODUCTION.

THE period of history contained in this little book is as important as any part of the annals of England. It is, with few exceptions, a time of peace—of quiet, steady, internal progress. It represents a nation resting from the exertions of a mighty past to grow strong for the trials of a momentous future.

It is the genius of England to gain by reform what other nations attempt by revolution.

It was one of the effects of the French Revolution to destroy what remained of the feudal system in France; to strengthen the national life by summoning the whole nation to council; to establish liberty and equality. What France imperfectly attained by one fierce struggle, England successfully acquired by the patient efforts of fifty years.

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The chief events which mark the advance of this progress were these:

1. In 1829 the emancipation of the Catholics reconciled an ancient feud, and led the way to a wider toleration of religion.

2. In 1832 the great reform bill shook the monopoly of aristocratic government, abolished distinctions of class, and prepared the nation for a just and tempered democracy.

3. In 1846 the repeal of the Corn-laws secured cheap food for the working classes, and asserted the principle of free trade.

4. In 1851 and 1862 the nations of the world met in peaceful rivalry as the guests of England. The Crimean war, between 1854 and 1856, did not seriously affect the regular march of progress.

5. In 1866 a new reform bill, in many respects the continuation of the old one, gave a new opportunity for internal improvement. Two large measures were passed with a view to give peace to Ireland, and a step was taken towards providing a national education.

These changes have all followed quietly and naturally one upon another, so that they look like growth rather than change.

At the end of this period England is ready with renewed strength to run a fresh career of prosperity and honor.

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BOOK I.

1820–1827.

CANNING.

CHAPTER I.

THE QUEEN'S TRIAL.

1. YOU were told at the end of your last epoch that the reign of George III. closed in a time of sullen agitation, the result partly of the usual distress caused by a long war, partly of the delay in passing needful measures of reform.* Our epoch, therefore, opens dark and gloomy. We find the ministers so unpopular that a conspiracy is formed to murder them. We find the crown discredited by the bad character of the king, and the people ready to take part against him. The horror of the Cato Street Conspiracy is explained by the scandal of the queen's trial.

2. Let us hear what this conspiracy was.

* Epoch VII., p. 149.

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Cato Street Conspiracy.

One day, towards the end of February, 1820, the Cabinet ministers were to dine together at Lord Harrowby's. But they had been told that a plot had been formed by some desperate men to murder them as they sat at table. They therefore dined separately at home, while the police were sent to capture the conspirators. They found them, twenty-five in number, in a loft above a stable in Cato Street, Edgware Road, armed, and ready for the enterprise. The first of the police who entered was stabbed to the heart, and the greater number of culprits escaped, including Thistlewood, the captain of the gang, who, however, was taken next day. On May 1 he was executed with four others, while five more were transported for life. Terror spread throughout the kingdom. Nothing, it was said, could be compared with this atrocity except the Gunpowder Plot in the reign of James I. It was attributed to the Radical Reformers, and the name of Radical became a byword. It was only the work of a few; yet misery and discontent must have risen to a high pitch before such remedies could have been thought of.

3. George III. had become unfit, through illness, to perform his duties as king at the

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end of the year 1810. His son George, Prince of Wales, was made regent, and held the office till his father's death, in the beginning of 1820, after which he succeeded to the throne. The trial of Queen Caroline, wife of the new king, tended still more to widen the breach between the people, on one side, and the king and ministers, on the other. She was a princess of Brunswick, and had married the Prince of Wales in 1795. From the first he treated her with dislike, and she withdrew from England in 1814, as soon as peace made it possible for her to travel on the Continent. On the accession of her husband to the throne, she was refused the title and honors of a queen; her name was omitted from its place in the Prayer-book, and she was not received at foreign courts. Goaded by these insults, she came to England to claim her rights. She was received with enthusiasm by the people. Crowds of supporters thronged her house and attended her carriage. The ministers, at the bidding of the king, introduced a bill to deprive her of her rank and to dissolve her marriage. The bill failed, and was withdrawn, and London was illuminated for three nights. Parliament granted her an annuity of £50,000, but no place was pro-

The queen's trial.

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vided for her at the coronation of the king. On the morning of that day she attempted to force her way into Westminster Abbey, but was repulsed, and died a few days afterwards.

CHAPTER II.

FOREIGN POLICY.

1. We must now consider the position of England in connection with the other nations of Europe. After the defeat of Napoleon, the allied sovereigns who met at the Congress of Vienna attempted to do away with all traces of his work. The Emperors of Russia and Austria, the Kings of Prussia, France, and Spain—indeed, nearly all the European powers, except England—formed what was called the Holy Alliance. The object which it put forward was that of promoting peace and good-will among nations upon the basis of Christianity, but its real effect was to crush attempts to establish self-government throughout Europe. Napoleon had driven out the Bourbon kings from Spain and Naples; he had destroyed the Holy Roman Empire and weakened the Papacy; he had been the enemy of

The Holy Alliance.

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all the old governments which were hostile to progress. The efforts of European statesmen were devoted to undoing all that he had done. During the six years which succeeded his fall, Europe was disturbed by conspiracies and plots. These were mainly caused by the measures taken by governments to repress their subjects in their aspirations for freedom. Lord Londonderry, better known as Lord Castlereagh, who managed foreign affairs in England, had shown himself too favorable to the policy which Prince Metternich, the prime minister of Austria, had done most to form. In August, 1822, however, Castlereagh died by his own hand, and Canning, who was just preparing to sail as governor-general to India, became foreign secretary in his place.

2. Insurrection had broken out in Spain. The Liberals set up a new constitution and secured the person of the king. The partisans of absolute government and of the Catholic religion marched into Catalonia under the name of the Army of Faith. The French troops, under the plea of protecting their country against a contagion of fever, occupied the passes of the Pyrenees. They, however, soon crossed the frontier, and, uniting

Insurrections in Spain and Naples.

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with the absolutists, succeeded in quelling the rebellion. A similar outbreak had occurred a short time before in Naples and in Piedmont.

Insurrection in Greece.

3. Part of the same wave of feeling had caused the Greeks to throw off the Turkish yoke. This attempt met with much sympathy in Europe, for when men thought of what the old Greeks had done for freedom, they wished that their descendants might succeed in gaining it. England could not give open help, but her feelings were shown, without concealment, to be on the side of the struggling power. The poet Shelley wrote and the poet Byron died for the awakened freedom of the land to which poetry owes so much. The Greeks fought well and bravely against the Turks, who could not put down their rising foe.

Canning's policy.

4. A congress of European powers was summoned to meet at Verona, in the north of Italy, in 1822, apparently for the purpose of discussing the affairs of Greece. It was attended by the Duke of Wellington as representative of England. As soon as it was suggested by the other powers that a general interference should be made to crush the rising in Spain, he refused to take any further part in the

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matter, and retired from the conference. Canning recognized the independence of the colonies in South America which had revolted from Spain. He called, as he said, a New World into existence to redress the balance of the Old. At a later period he sent troops to protect the liberties of Portugal against France. In this manner England showed that she had definitely broken with the principles of the Holy Alliance.

CHAPTER III.

COMMERCIAL REFORM.

1. The conclusion of the war against Napoleon had left England in great distress. She had borne the expense not only of her own armament, but of the armaments of foreign nations. Financial condition of England. The national debt amounted to nearly 800 millions, and the money required for the struggle in which the nation was engaged had been borrowed most wastefully. In 1823 Huskisson became President of the Board of Trade. He was, like Canning, sneered at for being an adventurer. In other words, he did not belong to one of those families who were

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considered at that time to have the right to keep the government entirely in their own hands. He was thoroughly versed in the principles of political economy—that is, in knowledge of the laws under which wealth is produced and distributed; and he used his position to pass a number of measures which rapidly developed the resources of the realm.

Navigation laws.

2. A law had been enacted during the time of the Commonwealth, which was ratified by Charles II., forbidding, with some exceptions, that foreign produce should be brought into England by any but English ships. The effect of this had been to give to England the carrying trade of Europe and to take it away from the Dutch—that is, to enrich English merchants with all the profits of carrying foreign goods. Other nations had objected to this, and America in particular placed so high a duty on goods imported in English vessels that it practically prevented the trade from continuing. English ships used to go empty to America to fetch American goods, and American ships, after bringing their own goods to us, went away empty themselves. The price of freight was thus doubled on both sides. To remedy this evil, Huskisson proposed and carried, in 1823, a Reciprocity

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of Duties Bill, by which duties were made equal on all goods, whether brought in English or foreign vessels. England's shipping trade, which had been much depressed, was thus very largely increased.

3. There were also large duties levied on the importation of foreign silk. This did great injury to English silk-weavers, partly by depriving them of the materials of their labor, partly by removing the stimulus of healthy competition. French silks were everywhere preferred to English, and so great was the rage for smuggled goods that it even paid an English manufacturer to have his own goods smuggled into England under the name of French. The prohibition of foreign wool was equally injurious. Much English wool could only be used when mixed with foreign. All change was resisted both by manufacturers and operatives. But Huskisson was assured of the truth of his principles, and carried measures which reduced the duties on both these articles. Silk and wool.

4. The question of the abolition of slavery was still unsettled. Like many other reforms, it had been brought forward and encouraged by Wilberforce and Pitt, but had been laid aside in the Slavery.

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throes of the European struggle. England's West Indian colonies were full of slaves, and scenes were enacted in them as terrible as any we have since heard of in America. Yet slavery could not be abolished without heavy loss of money. Indeed, it was feared that the blacks might rise and bring about a general massacre. A bill was passed to mitigate the sufferings of the slaves, and all slaveholders knew that by this small measure the death-blow of slavery had been struck.

Commercial distress.

5. Under the influence of these measures, the prosperity of the country largely increased. Wealth began to flow into new channels, and all classes of the people felt in their daily lives how far preferable peace was to war. Only the change was too sudden. The country ran into wild speculation. Companies were formed for objects impossible to obtain. Banks were opened by men who had no capital to support them. A crash came in 1825. Riots broke out in the Midland Counties; machines were broken as the supposed cause of the people's misery. The government came to the rescue; money was lent to merchants to retrieve their fortunes; foreign corn was let out of the docks, and the panic passed away.

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CHAPTER IV.

THE DEATH OF CANNING.

1. Two great questions remained for settlement, the Corn-laws and the Catholic disabilities. The Catholic population of Ireland was four times as great as the Protestant. The Catholics had for more than a century and a half been treated as a conquered and down-trodden race. In many respects their position had been improved; yet even in 1828, no Catholic could sit in either house of Parliament, no Catholic could be guardian to a Protestant, or keep any arms or warlike stores. The Catholics were excluded from almost every office of trust or distinction, and were made in many ways to feel that they stood on a different social footing from the Protestants. In 1800, when Ireland was united with England, Pitt had promised to remedy their grievances. But the king pleaded his coronation oath, and his mind gave way when the question was pressed upon him. It was felt that nothing could be done as long as George III. lived. Canning had devoted himself to this

Catholic Question.

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cause from his earliest years. But the matter remained an open question with the ministry, and it would probably have remained so much longer had it not been for the efforts of the Catholic Association under Daniel O'Connell. A Relief Bill passed the House of Commons in 1825, but was defeated in the House of Lords by the efforts of the Duke of York, the next heir to the throne, who declared his unflinching hostility to any measure of this kind so long as he lived.

2. He did not live long, but died in January, 1827. Lord Liverpool was soon afterwards struck down by paralysis, and Canning was reluctantly summoned by the sovereign to form a ministry. He had already received his death-blow in attending the Duke of York's funeral on a cold winter's night in St.George's Chapel. The Duke of Wellington, Peel, and Lord Eldon declined to serve under him. His principal colleague was Huskisson. His ministry was pledged to remove the two crying evils of the time. A Corn Bill intended to redeem part of this pledge was rejected in the House of Lords. Canning had no time to put into execution the cherished purpose of his life.

Canning primo minister.

3. Worn out by the exertions of his office,

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disheartened by the desertion of his friends, harassed by the constant persecution of an unscrupulous opposition like that which had embittered the last days of Pitt, he sank under his accumulated burdens, and died in August, 1827, at the age of fifty-seven. He has left a name second to none on the roll of English statesmen. His policy was not bounded by the limits of his country. His heart was ever moved with indignation against oppression. He vindicated the position of England as the asserter of liberty and freedom throughout the world.

His death.

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BOOK II.

1827–1830.

WELLINGTON.

CHAPTER I.

WELLINGTON PRIME MINISTER.

1. THE king had hoped to keep the same ministry in office and to carry on public business with as little change as possible. Lord Goderich, who was considered a moderate man, was therefore made prime minister; but Mr. Herries and the Duke of Wellington, who were both Tories, were received into the Cabinet. This was enough to bring about its destruction. A quarrel broke out between Herries and Huskisson, and Lord Goderich, not wishing to get rid of either of them, preferred to resign himself. The administration had scarcely lasted six months.

Lord Goderich prime minister.

2. His place was taken by the Duke of Wellington (January, 1828), now in his sixtieth year, the first subject of the crown, ac-

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cepted in all parts of Europe as the representative of English power and English spirit, but destined to impair in office the reputation he had gained in war. His industry, courage, and integrity were beyond question; but he had little sympathy with the people, and was apt to base his conduct too exclusively on obedience to the authority of the crown. Huskisson tried to convince himself that the spirit of Canning would yet continue to guide the conduct of the ministry, and therefore remained in office. But an opportunity soon occurred for removing him, and the remnant of Canning's party—Lord Dudley, Lord Palmerston, and Mr. Grant—joined him in his retirement.

Duke of Wellington prime minister.

CHAPTER II.

NAVARINO.

1. The attention of Europe had now for six years been directed towards the East. The Greeks had continued their struggle for liberty with various fortunes. Russia took this opportunity to attack her hereditary foe, and was moving

Turkish question.

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forward in her double mission of releasing her brother Christians from the Moslem yoke and of establishing her power upon the Dardanelles. England and France were afraid that Russia, if left to herself, might forget her worthier objects in the satisfaction of her ambition, and they saw that the best hope of controlling her policy lay in sharing her designs.

2. To effect these objects, Canning had, in July, 1827, procured the signature of the Treaty of London between England, France, and Russia. The powers offered their mediation to establish peace between the two countries which had been so long at war. An armistice was to be concluded without delay. The sultan was to retain the title of *Suzerain*, or superior lord, of Greece, and the Greeks were to pay a yearly tribute, or *relief*. Also a separation of the two nations, which were then intimately mixed, was to be effected, and the Turks were to be compensated for the territory which they surrendered. A secret article attached to the treaty provided that if the Porte or the Greeks did not accept the armistice within one month, the powers should do their best to force it upon them, without, however, taking an active part in the war.

Treaty of London.

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3. The Turks refused to grant an armistice. Ibrahim Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt, sailed with a large fleet to assist the Sultan. The combined English, French, and Russian fleets allowed him to enter the harbor of Navarino, on the west coast of the Morea, on condition that he did not come out again. He broke his promise and was driven back, but took his revenge by harassing the country and burning villages. The allies saw the smoke from burning villages rising among the hills. They realized the misery of his victims, and their patience could hold out no longer. They sailed into the narrow strait at the entrance of the harbor, with a view of forcing Ibrahim to discontinue these atrocities, under penalty of the entire destruction of his fleet. A battle was not in their intention, but a random shot fired the train of angry feeling; the battle became general, and in four hours the Turkish fleet was entirely destroyed (October, 1827). Battle of Navarino.

4. When the news of this victory arrived in England, Canning was dead. Wellington was not so favorable to the independence of the Greeks. The king, at the opening of Parliament, spoke of Navarino as an "untoward event;" and no effort was made to follow up the advant- Kingdom of Greece.

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age gained over the Turks. The Russians took up with greater vigor the cause which they had more nearly at heart. One army crossed the Danube and the Balkans, another marched into Armenia and occupied Kars and Erzeroum. The Treaty of Adrianople (August, 1828) secured the existence of Greece as an independent kingdom.

CHAPTER III.

CATHOLIC EMANCIPATION.

1. THE Corporation and Test Acts, passed in the reign of Charles II., provided that no one should hold any important civil or military office without giving evidence that he was a member of the Church of England by receiving the holy sacrament. These acts had been especially directed, the first against the Independents, the second against James II. and the Roman Catholics.* The burden of them now fell on the Dissenters, who were, however, able to evade the prohibition enforced by them by an Act of Indemnity, first

Corporation and Test Acts.

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* See Epoch V., p. 110, 116.

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passed in the reign of George II. and annually renewed. Lord John Russell proposed and carried, in 1828, a motion that a committee should be appointed to consider the abolition of these galling and useless restrictions. Peel and Huskisson opposed the measure, as Canning had always done before, on the ground not of principle, but of expediency. But they gave way to the feeling of the House, and a declaration of friendliness to the Church of England was substituted for the test.

2. This was followed by a new agitation in Ireland for the emancipation of Catholics. By the efforts of the Catholic Association, O'Connell was elected member for Clare. His return was declared valid, although he could not sit and vote in the House until he had taken the prescribed oaths. The Catholic Association became more and more powerful. Supported by the priests and well furnished with money, it spread itself over the whole of Ireland. It professed to secure that no member should be elected for any Irish constituency who did not pledge himself to obtain emancipation for the Catholics and parliamentary reform. It became evident to the ministers that no course was left to

Election of O'Connell.

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them but to conciliate a power which they could not quell.

Bill passed.

3. The king's speech on opening the session of 1829 contained the surprising announcement that the Catholic Association would be suppressed, and that a measure for the relief of the Catholics would be presented for the consideration of Parliament. Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington had courageously sacrificed political consistency to the good of their country. A bill which abolished all political distinctions between Catholics and Protestants in the fullest and most generous manner passed the Commons and Lords, and, after a little hesitation, received the assent of the king. The association which had obtained this victory in the name of a nation disappeared quietly out of existence. A great step had been made towards redressing the wrongs of Ireland.

Agitation for repeal of union.

4. O'Connell, who had deserved the gratitude of his country, was reluctant to give up the position of agitator. He declared that he would never rest until he had secured the repeal of the union between England and Ireland. In this vain and hopeless struggle he squandered the reputation which he had fairly

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earned, and came eventually to be regarded rather as a demagogue than as a patriot.

CHAPTER IV.

EUROPEAN REVOLUTION.

1. THE discontent which existed in England was only part of a general feeling of uneasiness which overspread the Continent and took the form of a reaction against the arrangements of the Treaty of Vienna, and the repressive measures which succeeded it. In these disputes the sympathies of the English people were on one side; the sympathies of the Duke of Wellington were thought, with only too good reason, to be on the other. In Portugal, Dom Miguel, brother of Dom Pedro, the new Emperor of Brazil, had usurped the throne which belonged to his niece Dona Maria, the daughter of Dom Pedro. He overthrew the constitution which had been defended by Canning, and established a government supported by the priests and the nobility, and recognized by no powers but Rome and Spain. Dona Maria was received with honor in England, and ministers de- Portugal.

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clared that they would observe the strictest neutrality; but it was evident that the feelings of the government were really with the party of absolute government, and their neutrality was so strictly interpreted that they attacked an expedition sent out to garrison an island which had remained faithful to the Queen Maria.

France. 2. France was the scene of far more serious disturbances. Louis XVIII., who had been restored to the throne after the fall of Napoleon, died in 1823, and was succeeded by his brother. This was the Count of Artois, whose frivolous youth had been spent among the dissipations of Versailles in the years which preceded the French Revolution; he now, as Charles X., governed reluctantly as a constitutional king. In 1829, Prince Polignac, a strong royalist and a friend of Wellington, joined the ministry. It was in a hopeless minority in the Chamber of Deputies, as the French House of Commons was called. After attempting in vain to pass some important measures, the Chamber was dissolved. The elections throughout the country were against the ministry, and placed it in a worse position than before. It determined to adopt a high-handed course, and issue

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in the king's name three ordinances—first, to suspend the liberty of the press; secondly, to dissolve the newly elected chambers; and, thirdly, to alter their constitution. A revolution broke out, the fury of which made three days memorable in French history — the 27th, 28th, and 29th of July, 1830. The king, who was at St. Cloud, abdicated, and retired to England. Louis Philippe, son of Philippe Duke of Orleans, who, in the first French revolution, after voting for the king's death, had himself perished by the guillotine, was first made captain-general, and then king, of the French. An impulse towards independence spread throughout Europe. Belgium separated itself from Holland, a country different in language, religion, and race. Poland attempted to recover its independence. It was seen how vain had been the efforts of the Treaty of Vienna to arrange the map of Europe without consulting the wishes of the people who were chiefly concerned.

3. Just before the outbreak of the Revolution in France, George IV. died (June, 1830). He was succeeded by the Duke of Clarence under the name of William IV.—a popular sailor, deficient in regal qualities, but who was understood to sympathize with the people. Parliament

Wellington resigns.

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was dissolved, as is usual, after the death of a sovereign. The new elections were most unfavorable to ministers. Brougham—a strong advocate for reform and education, the favorite of the populace—was returned for Yorkshire without expense. The king's speech announced a defiant attitude. It regarded with coldness the struggles on the Continent which roused so much sympathy in England; it breathed a determination to repress and crush all agitation throughout the country. This was followed shortly afterwards by a statement of the Duke of Wellington that he considered the reform of the representation entirely unnecessary, and that he should always resist it. His unpopularity became so great that the king's visit to the city was postponed lest public violence should be offered to the minister. At last the government were defeated, and resigned in November, 1830.

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BOOK III.

1830–1834.

REFORM.

CHAPTER I.

FIRST REFORM BILL.

1. LORD GREY was pointed out as the natural head of a ministry whose chief duty was to introduce a scheme of parliamentary reform. He was now sixty-six years of age, and had made the same good cause his own thirty years before. The Cabinet of fourteen was composed of nine Whigs, whose long exclusion from office had made them less fit for the work of administration, and four remnants of the party of Canning. Lord Althorp was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Brougham, to the surprise of all men, became Lord Chancellor, and deserted the scene of his triumphs in the House of Commons. Lord Palmerston, as Secretary for Foreign Affairs, held different opinions from

Lord Grey prime minister.

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his colleagues. Lord Grey declared to the House which was then sitting that the principles of his government were reform, economy, order, and peace. Agitation still continued in England, but ministers hoped to be able to allay it by the measure which four of their number were preparing in secrecy and silence.

2. In March, 1831, Lord John Russell asked leave to introduce the first Reform Bill. Reform Bill introduced. The greatest excitement prevailed; heaps of petitions were piled upon the table, the House was crowded, dense masses of the people stood outside waiting for the news, and beyond them were horsemen ready to carry the first information of the details of the bill to every part of England. The chief evils which demanded a remedy were: 1. The existence of *rotten boroughs*, places with few electors, and sometimes no inhabitants, which returned two members to Parliament. 2. The fact that large towns which had grown into importance through commerce were left without representation. 3. The unequal distribution of the franchise itself, so that only a small part of the population had the right of voting in elections. The bill proposed that sixty of the smaller boroughs should be disfran-

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chised altogether, that forty-seven should return only one member instead of two; on the other hand, London received eight additional representatives, and thirty-four seats were distributed among a number of towns hitherto unrepresented. The English counties had allotted to them fifty-five new members, the Scotch five, the Irish three, the Welsh one. In consequence of these changes, the numbers of the House of Commons would be reduced from 658 to 596. Corporations in towns lost their exclusive right of election, and it was uniformly extended to all householders who paid £10 a year rent. This gave votes to half a million citizens who were before without them.

3. Lord John Russell's speech was received with derisive cheers and laughter, but Sir Robert Peel sat fixed and immov- Second able in his place, and the Duke of reading. Wellington told his friends in society "that it was no joke, and there was nothing to laugh at." The debate lasted seven nights, and brought out the conflicting objections of the Tories and the Radicals. The one thought such a reform, coupled with a free press, incompatible with the power of the crown and the independence of the Lords. "It is a revolution," said a Tory member.

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The Radicals recognized the boldness of the measure, but regretted that no mention was made of ballots, of shortened parliaments, or of universal suffrage. At last, after a short reply from the opener of the debate, leave was given to bring in a Reform Bill, and it was read for the first time. The country was strangely divided. The Court, the House of Lords, the clergy, the army and navy, the universities, and the Inns of Court were mainly against the bill; it was supported by the manufacturers and the body of the people. The press was generally in its favor. Excitement was at its highest when Lord John Russell proposed the second reading. After a debate of two nights the motion was carried by a majority of one, the numbers being 302 and 301. The success of the bill seemed to be very doubtful.

4. After the Easter recess ministers announced some changes in the details of the bill. General Gascoigne, in committee, proposed that the number of the English and Welsh members should not be diminished. Lord Althorp declared that this motion would be fatal to the bill. At four in the morning it was carried by a majority of eight. A dissolution was immediately resolved on, but kept secret for the

Parliament dissolved.

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present. On April 21 ministers were again defeated by a majority of twenty-two. A Cabinet council was held; orders were given for the attendance of the officers of state and the royal guards; the king's consent was reluctantly obtained by Lord Grey and Lord Brougham. The king surprised both Houses in the midst of a debate, protesting against dissolution. Parliament was prorogued as a prelude to its dissolution, and the question of reform was left to the judgment of the country (April, 1831).

CHAPTER II.

SECOND REFORM BILL.

1. THE dissolution of Parliament was followed by general rejoicing and illuminations; those who refused to illuminate had their windows broken. In the elections reformers were chosen throughout the country; of the county members, nearly all were pledged to support the bill. The Second Reform Bill was introduced by Lord John Russell in July. It was the same as the first, with very few modifications.

New Parliament.

Bill passes the Commons.

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Leave to introduce it was granted with only one dissentient voice. The debate on the second reading lasted three nights. The motion was carried by a majority of 136, the numbers being 367 and 231. The ministers had gained 135 votes by the dissolution. But the minority was united and determined. The motion to go into committee was met by repeated amendments. The House rose at half-past seven to sit again at three. In committee the case of each borough was separately discussed. It was urged that the bill disfranchised the South of England for the benefit of the North, but it was in the North that the chief increase of wealth and population had taken place. Every art of obstruction was put in force. The House continued to sit through the tropical heat of July and past the 12th of August, and the work of the committee was only just concluded before the coronation of the king in September. The bill finally passed the House of Commons by a majority of 106.

Rejected by the Lords.

2. In October the second reading of the bill was proposed in the House of Lords by Lord Grey. He defended the consistency of his career, and showed that he had supported Pitt's proposals for reform in 1786. The debate continued for

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five nights. The Duke of Wellington opposed the bill; Lord Lyndhurst, who had been a Tory Lord Chancellor, complained that it opened the flood-gates of democracy. The Chief-justice and the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke the sentiments of their professions in demanding its rejection. Earl Grey replied on the morning of the 8th, but the bill was rejected by a majority of 41.

3. The indignation of the country was extreme. A spark might have produced a revolution. A cry was raised for the abolition of the House of Lords. Riots. Unpopular peers were attacked in the streets. A procession of 60,000 persons presented a petition to the king. Windows were broken in London, riots were common throughout the country. The public mind was calmed by Brougham and Russell. The people were assured that there was no intention to desert their cause or to shelve the question of reform, but that repose was absolutely needed. Parliament was prorogued for a month. Even after this it was found necessary to prohibit political associations by proclamation. A terrible riot took place in Bristol, directed against the recorder, Sir C. Wetherall, one of the fiercest opponents of the bill. The constables were routed and

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soldiers were called in to quell the tumult; the prisons were broken open and the prisoners liberated; the Mansion House and the bishop's palace were burned to the ground. The riots were at last suppressed with great bloodshed and loss of life. Bishops were burned in effigy throughout England, and the Church was involved in the hatred inspired by its chiefs.

CHAPTER III.

THIRD REFORM BILL.

1. PARLIAMENT met again in December, and the third Reform Bill was introduced. The chief alterations made in it were in adopting the census of 1831 as a basis of calculation for the population instead of that of 1821, and in maintaining the members of the House of Commons at the original number. The second reading was carried by a majority of 162, and, in spite of attempts at delay, the bill finally passed the Commons in March.

Bill passes the Commons.

2. In the Upper House it was still violently opposed by the Duke of Wellington, whereas a party called the "Waverers" or

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the "Trimmers," represented by Lord Wharncliffe and Lord Harrowby, were disposed to accede to the second reading in order to amend it in committee. The bill therefore passed through this stage by a majority of nine. In committee an amendment of Lord Lyndhurst was adopted by a majority of 35. The debate was immediately adjourned. The Lords.

3. Ministers had before them the choice between advising the king to create sufficient peers to insure the passing of the bill, or of resigning their offices. The king, whose early enthusiasm for the measure had gradually cooled, was reluctant to swamp the Upper House with new creations. So the ministry chose to resign. The Lords determined to proceed with the discussion of the bill, the Commons prayed in an address to the throne that the measure passed by them might not be surrendered. The excitement throughout the country was more violent than ever. A union was formed at Birmingham with the object of refusing to pay taxes. Arms were prepared, and there was even danger of a civil war. An attempt to form a ministry among the enemies of reform failed. Lord Lyndhurst and Sir Robert Peel declined the Ministry resigns.

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post; the Duke of Wellington undertook it, only to find it impossible.

4. Lord Grey was recalled in May, 1832; the king reluctantly gave permission to him and to Lord Brougham to create such a number of peers as would be necessary to pass the bill, first calling up peers' eldest sons. In consequence of this, the opposition of the Lords was suddenly withdrawn, the Waverers declaring that they had been duped and cheated. The bill passed in June, only twenty-two peers voting against it. The amendments of the Lords were shortly afterwards accepted by the Commons, and the bill became law. The king refused to give his consent in person, but it was given by commission amid the silence of deep emotion. Parliament was shortly afterwards dissolved, that a new House of Commons might be elected under the new act.

Bill passes.

CHAPTER IV.

RESULTS OF THE REFORM BILL.

1. THE Reform Bill has not belied the prophecies of those who opposed it. It was a great revolution, as momentous, though

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not so violent, as the revolutions of France in 1789 and of England in 1688. Its consequences are still in the future. But although the change it brought was as complete as was predicted of it, its effects have been far from disastrous. It brought about by gradual and silent means the reforms which are necessary to harmonize progress with stability, and new ideas with old traditions. It took a large step towards admitting the whole nation to the labors of government, and allowed the national life to flow in a fuller tide. Reflections.

2. A spirit of moderation governed the elections. The attention of the new House of Commons, which met in January, 1833, was first directed to Ireland. Riots and disturbances rendered it necessary to suspend the Habeas Corpus Act. When this had been done, it was possible to consider the wrongs of Ireland. The first act of the government was to remedy the abuses of the Irish Church. The number and salaries of the higher clergy were reduced and an attempt made to diminish the injustice of the tithe, which often had to be collected at the point of the bayonet. New Parliament.

3. Retrenchment and financial reforms next claimed attention. Ministers felt

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bound to redeem their promises, on the one hand, and to resist their extreme supporters, on the other. The government of India lost the exclusive right of trading, but their charter was renewed in other respects to their satisfaction. But by far the most important measure was the abolition of slavery in the British empire. The victory so long striven for by Wilberforce, Stephen, and Clarkson was at last gained. The slaves were set free at a great loss of property to their owners. Some attempt was made to alleviate the condition of factory workmen at home, and a large grant was given for education. Such efforts are only possible when the feeling of the people is at a high pitch.

Slavery abolished.

4. Parliament met for its second session in February, 1834. It had first to deal with the affairs of Ireland. Some Liberals wished to diminish still further the revenues of the Irish Church. O'Connell opposed any measure of political coercion. At last, worn out with anxiety and vexation, Lord Grey retired from a position which had long been wearisome to him. Lord Melbourne took his place, and the rest of the ministry continued unchanged.

Second session.

5. The force with which ministers had

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met a reformed Parliament was exhausted. Attempts to give effect to the rest of the measures which had been promised ended in failure. Neither the Irish tithes nor the English poor-rates could be placed on a satisfactory footing. The one success was the passing of the bill to amend the poor-law. By this act the law of settlement by which paupers were removed to the parish of their birth was abolished, workhouses were erected throughout the country, outdoor relief was greatly diminished, and the results were shown in a falling of rates, a rise of wages, and a rapid spread of happiness and contentment.

Lord Melbourne's first ministry.

6. The popularity of the ministry was gone, but its fall was sudden. The king, after a hasty declaration in favor of the Irish Church, intimated to his ministers that they should resign. Sir Robert Peel, who was in Rome, was sent for in haste. In the meantime the Duke of Wellington held nearly all the offices of government in his own hands. A new ministry was formed, and Parliament was dissolved to ascertain the feeling of the country, in December, 1834.

Resignation.

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BOOK IV.

1835-1841.

LORD MELBOURNE.

CHAPTER I.

SIR ROBERT PEEL'S FIRST MINISTRY.

1. THE new Parliament still contained a majority of Whigs, although many seats, especially in the counties, had been won by the Tories. These old party names were now giving way to the terms Liberal and Conservative. Ministers were in a minority from the first; they were beaten in the election of speaker, and beaten on the address. Parliament was only restrained by fear of a dissolution. Sir Robert Peel inaugurated several measures of the wisest character, which were afterwards adopted by the opposition. He established an ecclesiastical commission to equalize the income of the clergy; he tried to regulate the collection of tithes and the marriage of dissenters; he was beaten in detail, but his ene-

The new Parliament.

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mies shrank from proposing a vote of want of confidence.

2. At last an issue was found in the question of the Irish Church, and the appropriation of some of its revenues to secular purposes. The ministry found itself in a minority of thirty-three, and soon after resigned. The king was compelled to recall Lord Melbourne, and the old ministry was restored, with the exception of Lord Brougham. An attempt to force a Tory government on the nation by the authority of the sovereign thus signally failed. William IV. is more to be blamed for trying it than the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel for supporting their sovereign.

Ministry falls.

CHAPTER II.

THE KING'S LAST YEARS.

1. Two great problems lay before the ministry, the reform of municipalities and the reform of the Irish Church. The government of boroughs, once the home of liberty and the training-ground for political practice, had come to be as full of abuses as the representation of the coun-

Municipal reform.

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try. Some town-councils consisted of a great noble, the members of his family, and his chief man of business, and their sole function was to elect members to Parliament. Early in September, 1835, a measure was passed, with the concurrence of Lords and Commons, which rendered municipal government a reality, provided for the proper election of aldermen, abolished the unreasonable privileges of freemen (a class of men who, by the accident of birth, were invested with the government of the towns), and struck off the fetters from many industries. This measure completed and extended the work of the Reform Bill.

Ireland.

2. The grievances of Ireland still continued. During the last fifty years, a number of political societies called Orange Lodges had sprung up in the province of Ulster. Their object was to support the cause of Protestantism against the Ribbonmen, who were Catholics. The attempt to diminish the revenues of the Irish Church favored the extension of these lodges. They spread throughout Ireland, England, and the colonies. Their members reached the number of 300,000; and the Duke of Cumberland, the king's brother, was placed at their head with almost despotic power.

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They were considered a menace to the peace of the kingdom, and were quietly dissolved in 1836.

3. Opportunity was taken for carrying a number of domestic reforms. A uniform registration of births, deaths, and marriages was ordered throughout the kingdom; the revenues of bishops and canons were equalized in pursuance of the report of the Ecclesiastical Commission; the tax on newspapers was reduced to a penny, in spite of the opposition of the Tories, who preferred cheap soap to a cheap press. Domestic reforms.

4. The power of the ministry did not last much longer. Deserted by some old allies, they failed to carry measures of further improvement. Discredited by repeated defeats, they would have resigned if it had not been for the illness and death of the king. This took place in June, 1837. William IV. was honest and conscientious. His reign witnessed a great revolution in the Reform Bill, and a strong impulse to commerce by the extension of railways and growth of steamships. With good reason, his statue adorns the passage of the Houses of Parliament, as representing a time when the national progress was unusually rapid. King dies.

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CHAPTER III.

THE NEW REIGN.

1. No monarch ever came to the throne more popular than Queen Victoria, the daughter of the Duke of Kent, just eighteen years old. Her youth secured sympathy; her conduct soon won for her affection and respect. Consideration for her feelings kept the ministers in power, as the nation did not wish to deprive her of advisers whom she was understood to like. To the joy of Englishmen, Hanover was separated from the crown by passing to a male heir. An outbreak in Canada threatened to become serious, and the first measures of the new sovereign were directed to the suppression of rebellion.

The queen.

2. Discontent in Canada, arising from disputes between the French and English Canadians, had been fostered by the United States. Major Head, Governor of Upper Canada, sent away the soldiers, called out the militia and loyal inhabitants, and entirely crushed the rebels. He was reprimanded and recalled. Lord Dur-

Canada.

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ham, a man of the highest character, was sent out to appease the province. Nothing could be more heroic than his performance of duty while he was slowly wasting with incurable disease and thwarted by factious opposition. He failed in the object of his mission, and came home to die.

3. The ministry continued to exist on sufferance. They had no power to carry measures or to support their servants. In May, 1839, they were defeated in a question about Jamaica. They resigned; but Sir Robert Peel made it a condition of taking office that a change should be made in the ladies of the queen's bedchamber. The queen objected, and the ministry remained in their posts; but it has since been held that the chief officers who surround the person of the sovereign are changed with a change of ministry. Bedchamber question.

4. The same year saw the introduction of the penny postage, an invention of Rowland Hill. At this time no postage was under 2*d.* Letters from the country to London cost from 6*d.* to 1*s.*; from Scotland to Ireland, 1*s.* or 1*s.* 6*d.* Rowland Hill showed that the actual cost of carrying each letter was very small, and that if a stimulus were given, the traffic would in- Penny post.

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crease enormously. Experience has endorsed this, and cheap postage has been adopted by all civilized nations. Postage-stamps were also introduced, and franking, the privilege of sending letters free of postage reserved to members of Parliament, was abolished.

CHAPTER IV.

THE QUEEN'S MARRIAGE.

1. STATESMEN had long been occupied with the question of the queen's marriage; none more so than the king of the Belgians, uncle of the queen, himself the widower of a princess who was heir to the English throne. Prince Albert, of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the queen's first cousin, had been silently educated for his destinies. The marriage, which took place in February, 1840, was happily one of love. The prince's virtues formed the real foundation of the prosperity of the reign, and it will be recognized by posterity that his many-sided culture and intellectual activity have left an indelible stamp on the minds and character of Englishmen. The best results of German thought were transfused into English man-

Prince Albert.

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liness, an effect which the union with Hanover had never been able to accomplish.

2. The government regained some little strength by its activity in crushing the attempt of Egypt to revolt from the Porte. But they were not able to pass measures of importance, and the debates on the budget overthrew them. They were defeated in a measure which anticipated the repeal of the Corn-laws. Instead of resigning, they dissolved Parliament in June, 1841. But the country ratified the judgment of the House, and after the election the Conservatives divided on the address with a majority of ninety-one. A new ministry was formed, of which the principal members were Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington.

Ministers resign.

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BOOK V.

1841–1853.

SIR ROBERT PEEL

CHAPTER I.

AFGHANISTAN.

1. Sir Robert Peel, at the outset of his ministry, found himself compelled to provide for a deficiency of revenue of two millions and a half, and to take, at least, some steps in the direction of free trade in corn. At this time the poor were paying a large price for their daily bread in order that the farmers of England might derive a supposed advantage of profit, while quantities of corn from the Baltic and the Black Sea were kept out of England by an unreasonable duty. The prime minister proposed an alteration of what was called the sliding scale—that is, a set of duties varying with the price of corn in the English market—his object being to maintain the price of wheat as nearly as possible

Corn-laws.

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at sixty shillings. A motion for the repeal of the corn-laws was made by the leaders of the Anti-Corn-law League, Cobden and Villiers. It was lost by a large majority, and the government proposals were easily carried.

2. The deficiency in the revenue was made worse by the outbreak of a war in China and the possibility of troubles on the Indian frontier. Sir Robert Peel determined to deal with the whole matter comprehensively, and began that series of financial reforms which, continued by his pupil, Mr. Gladstone, have done much to raise England to her present height of prosperity. The chief source of proposed revenue was the income-tax, at that time new, and violently opposed, but which has since been found a powerful engine in times of difficulty. Besides this, he revised the whole tariff of imports, simplifying them wherever it was possible, and preparing the way for free trade. At this time a penny income-tax produced half a million revenue; it now produces a million and a half.

Income-tax.

3. Afghanistan, a province on the north-western frontier of India, is approached by two passes from the plains. The Khyber Pass, a long and difficult defile, leads to Jellalabad, and

Disaster in Afghanistan.

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the Khoord Cabul Pass, still longer and more difficult, bars the passage to Cabul. Afghanistan had been occupied by General Elphinstone, who, fearing for his retreat, sent General Sale to occupy the pass to Jellalabad. In the meantime, he neglected the commonest precaution. The Afghans, excited by some wild rumors, rose against him, cut off his provisions, killed the British envoy by treachery, and compelled the army to shameful capitulation. No faith was kept by the barbarians. Deprived of food, harassed by treacherous attacks, the army dwindled away to a mere handful. The women and children had at last to be surrendered to the faithless enemy. Out of 16,000 men who left Cabul, only one survivor reached the city of Jellalabad.

4. No insult of this kind has remained long unavenged. General Pollock marched with 8000 men through the Khyber Pass. He joined General Sale at Jellalabad, and defended the city, although it was shaken with a hundred shocks of earthquake. In August, 1842, the two armies moved through the pass of Khoord Cabul, where their countrymen had perished man by man. The city of Cabul was taken, the inhabitants were massacred

Vengeance.

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without mercy, and the Great Bazaar was burned to the ground. Afghanistan was entirely reduced; but the English did not care to retain so useless and so costly a possession.

CHAPTER II.

FREE TRADE.

1. THE next three years are chiefly occupied with the struggle between protection and free trade; but little progress was made with this question in the session of 1843. The year was taken up with discussions on factory labor, on education, on church rates, with the visit of the queen to the King of the French, and the excitement at Oxford caused by the defection of some prominent High-Churchmen to the Church of Rome. It was found that the financial reforms of the previous session had been a brilliant success. Instead of two millions and a half deficit, there was a million and a half surplus after all debts had been paid, and an anticipation of a still larger balance for next year. Reforms.

2. The emancipation of the Catholics had not succeeded in quieting Ireland. The

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movement for repeal of the Union was still in full vigor, and O'Connell told a large meeting at Tara that within a year a Parliament would be sitting at College Green in Dublin. Another meeting, summoned with all the parade of military organization, was prohibited by proclamation, and prevented by O'Connell. He was, nevertheless, tried for sedition and condemned by a Protestant jury to imprisonment and fine. The judgment was reversed after a tempestuous scene in the House of Lords, and the acquittal of the great agitator was received with joy throughout Ireland. Little more was heard of O'Connell. He was now grown old and weary, and his followers knew that they would be treated in future with severity or mercy, as they deserved it. In the next year the government did an act of justice by endowing the Catholic College of Maynooth.

Ireland.

3. In the meantime events were rapidly moving towards free trade. Sir Robert Peel, assisted by Mr. Gladstone, went on with his financial reforms. He proposed to use the surplus produced by the income-tax in reducing the taxes on commodities. A great change was proposed in the sugar duties, wise in the

Free trade.

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main, but disfigured by traces of protection. The agricultural distress of the year gave the free-traders an opportunity of enforcing their views, while a new party of young England, led by Mr. Disraeli and Lord John Manners, thought that the landed interests were too heavily taxed already, and ought to be relieved.

4. The session of 1845 closed quietly enough. The increased Maynooth Grant had been passed, the Jews admitted to municipal offices, the Oregon dispute with the United States arranged, New Zealand pacified. Suddenly an unexpected crisis arose. A disease which entirely destroyed the potato plant appeared, first in England and then in Ireland. The whole subsistence of the Irish peasantry was destroyed. Pressure was put upon the ministry to admit foreign corn free of duty. The country was deluged with the free-trade tracts of the Anti-Corn-law League. Sir Robert Peel was convinced that protection was no longer tenable, but his Cabinet would not follow him. Lord Stanley resigned, and the ministry broke up. Lord John Russell was unable to form a cabinet, and Sir Robert Peel was induced to take office again. It was known that he would meet Parliament

Potato disease.

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in 1846, pledged to support the cause of free trade.

5. The agitation for the repeal of the Corn-laws began in Manchester towards the end of 1836. In a season of distress, it appeared to some of the most influential members of this rising town that the only remedy lay in free trade, and that by artificially keeping up the price of corn the manufacturing interests of the country were sacrificed to the agricultural interests. Three years later the Anti-Corn-law League was formed. Its most prominent members from the first were Mr. Cobden and Mr. Bright, who sacrificed their worldly prosperity, in a great measure, to the work of converting their countrymen to the principles of true economy. Very large sums of money were collected for the purposes of the League. A free-trade hall was built in Manchester. In 1843 the *Times* acknowledged that the League was a great fact, and compared it to the wooden horse by which the Greeks were secretly brought within the walls of Troy. At the end of 1845 it was stronger than ever in men, money, and enthusiasm.

Anti-Corn-law League.

6. On the assembling of Parliament in 1846, the queen's speech and the address in

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reply to it indicated the coming change. Sir Robert Peel rose immediately afterwards, and honestly confessed his alteration of opinion. He had observed, he said, during the last three years (1) that wages do not vary with the price of food, and that with high prices you do not necessarily have high wages; (2) that employment, high prices, and abundance contribute directly to the diminution of crime; (3) that by the gradual removal of protection, industry had been promoted, crime had been diminished, and morality improved. Sir Robert Peel was followed by Mr. Disraeli, who, expressing the passion of the protectionist country gentlemen, violently assailed the minister. In February Sir Robert Peel announced a fixed duty on corn for three years, and afterwards its entire abolition. The free-traders attempted to dispense with this delay, but they were beaten by a large majority, and the bill passed easily. The Duke of Wellington secured its acceptance in the House of Lords. He had become wiser since the Reform Bill, and his conduct on this occasion compensated for the errors of his previous career.

Corn-law repeal.

7. The protectionists determined on their revenge. A bill for the suppression of crime

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in Ireland gave the opportunity. Lord George Bentinck assailed the ministers with violence, and they were defeated by a majority of seventy-three on the very evening that the Corn Bill passed the House of Lords. The Whigs, who had assisted Sir Robert Peel in carrying free trade, now joined the protectionists in turning him out. Ministers had nothing left them but to resign, and Lord John Russell was ordered to form a cabinet. The new ministry did not do much in the session of 1847. They were obliged to propose a second time the measure for the pacification of Ireland which had brought about the defeat of their opponents. A bill for shortening the hours of labor in factories passed without difficulty. This year was also marked by the death of O'Connell at Genoa, on his way to Rome, and by the voluntary dissolution of the Anti-Corn-law League.

Ministers resign.

CHAPTER III.

THE CHARTER.

1. ALTHOUGH no great question was before the nation, Parliament had been dis-

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solved. The result of the new elections was a slight increase of strength to the government. It was proceeding to consider simple measures of practical reform, when a new and unexpected danger demanded its attention. A revolution which broke out in France in 1848 overthrew the monarchy of Louis Philippe, and established a republic in its place. The contagion spread throughout Europe. In every country thrones were tottering, and England was not exempt from the general disorder. The discontent of the Irish increased, and Smith O'Brien took the place of O'Connell. In England the excitement was shown by the agitation of the Chartists.

Discontent.

2. The Chartists derived their name from the sketch of a new Reform Bill which had obtained the title of the People's Charter. It contained six principal points: 1. Universal suffrage; 2. Annual parliaments; 3. Vote by ballot; 4. Abolition of property qualification for members of Parliament; 5. The payment of members; 6. Equal electoral districts. This had been finally drawn up in 1838, but for many years the agitation for it was obscured by other matters. In 1839, a petition containing a

The People's Charter.

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million and a quarter names was presented to Parliament. In 1840 an attack made by the Chartists on Newport was crushed by the firmness of the mayor. In 1847 the Chartists put out their full strength and gained several seats in Parliament, and especially the election of their leader, Feargus O'Connor, for Nottingham.

3. Inspired by their successes, the Chartists determined to hold a monster meeting on the 10th of April on Kennington Common: from this place they were to march and present a huge petition to the House of Commons. They even talked of imitating France in the establishment of a republic. The government determined to prevent the march. Soldiers were posted in all parts of London by the Duke of Wellington, 170,000 special constables were sworn in, the public offices, the bank, and post-office were armed to the teeth. All their designs ended in failure. The meeting was far smaller than had been expected, the march was given up, and the petition of five million and a half of names was found to contain only a third of this number, and those mainly fictitious. The movement could not survive the ridicule of exposure.

April 10.

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CHAPTER IV.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

1. THE chief subjects of discontent which existed when our period opened had now been removed. The disabilities of Catholics had been taken away, the Corn-laws had been repealed, the Irish had been pacified, rebellion in England had been crushed. The country entered upon a career of peaceful progress. In 1849 the navigation laws, which had been passed by Cromwell's government in 1651, and which had first transferred the carrying trade from Holland to this country, were repealed. This was a legitimate extension of the principles of free trade. Progress.

2. At this time a dispute arose in an ecclesiastical question which was a forerunner of many similar discussions in later years. Mr. Gorham had been presented to a living in the diocese of Exeter. The bishop took the unusual course of examining his opinions, and refused to institute him because he was unsound on the question of baptismal regeneration. The The Gorham case.

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Court of Arches, a court reserved for the trial of ecclesiastical matters, supported the bishop; but its decision was reversed by the judicial committee of the Privy Council, a lay court of appeal which had lately received power of revising the judgments of the ecclesiastical courts. The Low-Church party was rejoiced at the freedom allowed it; the High-Church party, which had recently been strengthened by a movement to increase its power begun at Oxford, was angry first at the slight thrown on an important doctrine, and, secondly, that the law should ultimately decide on Church matters. However, a bill introduced to alter the constitution of the court was rejected by the House of Commons. To this year 1850 also belongs the commencement of an attempt to make the universities more useful to the whole nation by the appointment of a royal commission. Party spirit was hushed for a time by the death of Sir Robert Peel.

3. Some slight excitement was caused by the appointment by the Pope of Roman Catholic bishops, under an Archbishop of Westminster, and the division of England into dioceses. It produced, however, much less effect than was anticipated. All thoughts were concen-

The great exhibition.

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trated on the great exhibition to be held in Hyde Park in 1851. The design and execution were entirely the work of Prince Albert. A building of a new kind, made of glass and iron, was invented as if for the very purpose. It contained the industrial products of all nations, and it was hoped that peaceful competition had rendered the horrors of war forever impossible. The enterprise was a brilliant success; it fulfilled the hopes of its projectors; and the profits, wisely invested, have been a means of promoting art and culture throughout England.

4. As if in mockery of human designs, this hope of peace was succeeded by a destructive war. Louis Napoleon, nephew of the great Emperor, President of the French Republic since 1848, had just made himself Emperor of the French. It was feared that a military power so near to England might drag her into an unwise policy. Lord John Russell was succeeded as minister by Lord Derby. But a dissolution of Parliament brought back the old ministry, with Lord Aberdeen at its head and Mr. Gladstone as Chancellor of Exchequer. His budget inaugurated a new series of financial reforms. He formed a plan of reducing the national debt, while he retained the income-

Change of ministry.

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tax in order to make it easier to tax more equally the chief articles of daily consumption.

5. A dispute had arisen between Russia and Turkey, ostensibly about the guardianship of the Holy Places in Jerusalem, but the root of the quarrel lay far deeper. Turkey, a decaying power, had become more and more unfit to govern Christians. Russia was deeply interested in protecting the Slavonic races under the Turkish rule, who were of the same blood and origin as herself; she wished, also, to extend her power to the Dardanelles. If great calmness had been shown on both sides, peace might have been preserved. But the Russian Emperor Nicholas was violent and impetuous; our ambassador at Constantinople was a sworn enemy of Russia. A war was necessary to the Emperor of the French for the consolidation of his throne. The spirit of both nations was gradually roused. The Russians entered the Danubian principalities and burned the Turkish fleet at Sinope. Lord Aberdeen strained every nerve for peace. Lord Palmerston, the home secretary, threatened to resign unless strong measures were adopted. The country approached nearer and nearer to the brink of war.

War.

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BOOK VI.

1853–1858.

WAR AND MUTINY.

CHAPTER I.

THE CRIMEAN WAR.

1. In November, 1853, the Emperor of Russia declared war against Turkey. To the surprise of Europe, the Turks at first held their own against the invader. The Russians were repulsed from every point of attack along the Danube, and the emperor became more exasperated at the failure of his arms. The Emperor of the French attempted in vain to mediate. At last a message was sent by England that unless the Russian troops were withdrawn across the Pruth before the end of April, 1854, it would be considered that war had been declared. To this the Czar made no reply, and the war began its course.

Outbreak of war.

2. The plan of operations was very simple. Russia could only be attacked in her ex-

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tremities, and England could only act on a sea base. A fleet was sent into the Baltic with high expectations of success, which were not realized, and a large force of English and French troops were despatched into the Black Sea with the object of taking Sebastopol, a powerful fortress which the Russians had recently constructed at great expense. In September the allies landed at Eupatoria, in the Crimea, and six days later completely defeated the Russians at the battle of the Alma. It might have been possible to attack Sebastopol with success from the northern side, but it was thought more prudent to besiege it from the south, and the batteries opened fire in October. The battle of Balaklava, fought on October 25, was signalized by a charge of six hundred light cavalry, in which nearly half were killed or wounded. In November was fought the battle of Inkerman, in which an attempt to surprise the British army was defeated by the steadiness of the guards. The winter tried the army severely, and the want of supplies and hospitals roused indignation at home.

Crimea.

3. Discontent ripened into suspicion. Mr. Roebuck proposed an inquiry into the conduct of the ministry. Unable to meet it,

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the Cabinet of Lord Aberdeen resigned, and, after a short delay, Lord Palmerston formed a government not very different from the previous one. It soon lost the services of Mr. Gladstone and two others, but it was able to carry on the war with undiminished vigor. The death of the Czar in March gave only a slight hope of peace. In April the siege was reopened, and continued with varying success. On June 18, the anniversary of Waterloo, the allies were repulsed in an attack upon the Redan and Malakhoff batteries; and towards the end of the month Lord Raglan, the commander-in-chief, died. At last, after a month's incessant bombardment, an attack was made on the fortifications in September. The result was that the Russians evacuated the town, blowing up their forts, and leaving their wounded behind them.

Change of ministry.

4. Before the end of the year, negotiations for peace were begun by the help of Austria. The French were more anxious for a settlement than the English. The points most difficult for Russia to accept were the limitation of her power in the Black Sea, and the cession of a portion of Bessarabia to Roumania. These points were at last arranged, and the Treaty

Peace.

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of Paris was signed in March, 1856. Thus ended a war which crippled the power of Russia for twenty years, and delayed for a time the inevitable fate of Turkey.

CHAPTER II.

INDIAN MUTINY.

1. THE rest of the year 1856 passed quietly; but in the spring of 1857 the government were defeated on a motion of Mr. Cobden's, condemning their action with regard to a war which had broken out in China. Ministers determined to dissolve Parliament rather than to resign, and the issue placed before the country was that of confidence in Lord Palmerston. In the election, Cobden and Bright were rejected as members of the peace party. The liberal cause, on the whole, was supported by a triumphant majority.

China war.

2. The elections were closely followed by a terrible calamity in India. A wide-spread rebellion of the native soldiers had broken out in the country, accompanied by atrocities such as English men and women had never suffered before. The

Indian mutiny.

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pretext for the revolt was the dislike of the Indian native soldiers to the use of greased cartridges, which might contain the fat of cows or pigs, animals which their religion teaches them may not be eaten. This rebellion may have been connected with the Russian war, but it was certainly stimulated by the withdrawal of troops for China. The mutiny first broke out at Barrackpore; it then appeared at Lucknow and Meerut. Delhi, the ancient capital, was seized by the rebels, and the native king was placed on the throne of his ancestors. The whole of Northern India was in disturbance. Sir Henry Lawrence, with the English garrison, was a prisoner at Lucknow, in Oude. The treachery of Nana Sahib decoyed the garrison of Cawnpore to their destruction. The wives and children whom they had left behind were slaughtered by native butchers and thrown into a well.

3. The government strained every effort to recover the country. Delhi was taken by Wilson, Cawnpore was relieved by Havelock—too late, however, to save his countrywomen from murder. A conqueror in twelve battles, he entered Lucknow in time to prevent a similar calamity. He died in the hour of victory. Recovery.

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A black cloud of mutineers retook Cawnpore, and threatened Lucknow, but they were entirely defeated in the field by Sir Colin Campbell. At the close of 1857 the great dependency was again almost at peace, and in June, 1858, the work was completed by the capture of Gwalior.

4. Great as was the provocation, it may be doubted whether too wild and passionate a vengeance was not inflicted on the mutineers. Many of them were blown from guns, a death peculiarly horrible in their eyes. England received a severe lesson from the shock of this calamity. Among its principal effects were the transference of the government of India from the East India Company to the crown, and the awakening of Englishmen to a deeper interest in Indian affairs.

Results.

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BOOK VII.

1858–1868.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

CHAPTER I.

LORD DERBY.

1. AN attack made by the Italian refugees on the life of the Emperor Napoleon in January, 1858, was the occasion of a demand from the French government that we should cease to offer facilities for the conspiracies of political exiles. Lord Palmerston, in deference to this request, proposed to alter the English law of conspiracy to murder. When this was rejected by a majority of nineteen, he immediately resigned, and was succeeded by Lord Derby at the head of a Conservative ministry. The year was occupied by various internal reforms: the choice of Indian civil servants by competitive examination was extended, the Thames was purified, a telegraphic cable was laid between England and America. It

Change of ministry.

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appeared that the question of parliamentary reform, which had been stopped by the war, but had never sunk into oblivion, had now to be faced, and Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli braced themselves to deal with a problem which they acknowledged to be unwelcome.

New Parliament.

2. The Reform Bill introduced by Mr. Disraeli was not satisfactory. It gave the franchise to a number of different classes, without resting it on any broad or comprehensive basis. A resolution proposed by Lord John Russell which expressed this feeling was carried against the government by a majority of thirty-nine. Ministers determined to dissolve. The issue before the country was not entirely of a domestic character. War had broken out between France and Austria for the liberation of Italy, and the feeling of England was strongly with Italian unity. The Liberals, who were known to have this cause at heart, were returned in a majority of fifty, and, immediately after Parliament met, ministers were compelled to resign, defeated in a vote of confidence. This was the sixth change of ministry which had taken place in fifteen years.

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CHAPTER II.

LORD PALMERSTON.

1. LORD PALMERSTON now became Prime Minister, with Lord John Russell as Foreign Secretary, Mr. Gladstone Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Lord Granville President of the Council (June, 1859). The first step of the government was the conclusion of a commercial treaty with France, based on principles of free trade. Mr. Cobden had been the negotiator, and Mr. Gladstone, in a speech which announced a new era of financial policy, expressed the long services of the free-trader in language of universally accepted praise. The ministry attempted to satisfy the expectations of the country by bringing forward a Reform Bill. It was as simple as its forerunner had been complicated. It proposed a franchise of £10 in counties, £6 in boroughs, and a redistribution of seats. The languid interest felt in it by the Premier was a sign of the indifference of the country, and the bill was withdrawn. Reform Bill.

2. In 1861 a civil war broke out in Amer-

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ica between the Northern and the Southern States. The matters in dispute between them were many and various, but the most important point at issue was the question of slavery. The English people generally took the side of the South, partly from a supposed community of feeling, and partly from a jealousy of America and a wish to see her dismembered. This feeling was intensified by the capture of two Southern envoys while under the protection of the British flag. There was danger of war breaking out, but the Northern States submitted to an ultimatum, and returned the prisoners.

American war.

3. The affair of the *Trent*, as this dispute was called, from the name of the ship in which the envoys were sailing, was the last public question in which Prince Albert, now for some time since called the Prince Consort, was engaged. After a few days' illness, he died at Windsor, in December, 1861, at the age of forty-two. The grief of the English nation was universal and spontaneous. Only gradually did the country come to learn that he had been King of England for twenty years, while no one knew it.

Death of the Prince Consort.

4. The American war affected England in two ways. First, the ordinary supply of

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cotton to our manufacturing districts was cut off, and a great distress was felt in Lancashire, which was known by the name of the cotton famine. The operatives displayed the utmost patience and self-control under their afflictions, and large subscriptions were contributed for their support. Lord Derby gave the services of his genius to the organization of relief, and cotton, the threads of which were of a shorter length, was provided from India. Before the American war was over, the worst pressure of distress had passed. The other trouble was of longer duration. A ship called the *Alabama*, was fitted out from an English dockyard, notwithstanding the protest of the American ambassador, with the object of making war on American commerce in the interests of the Southern States. The Americans felt that the negligence shown in not stopping this vessel expressed only too clearly the sympathies of England. They could not at this time do anything to prevent or to avenge the wrong; but when the war was over, a feeling of bitterness was left which nearly led to an open rupture, and was with difficulty appeased.

Cotton famine and the *Alabama*.

5. Lord Palmerston died in October, 1865.

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Repose.

The condition of parties during these closing years was remarkable. Popular throughout the country, the Premier was trusted equally by Conservatives and Liberals. The policy of a long life was the earnest of his Liberalism; and, at the same time, he was known to be opposed to organic reform. The great questions which were agitated in later years now slumbered; and the reform of the representation, which lay at the root of all other measures, was deferred, with the admonition that the nation should rest and be thankful for what it had already achieved. A new election in the spring of 1865 returned a solid Liberal majority, with a few Liberal losses. No loss, however, was so great as the premature death of Richard Cobden.

Earl Russell prime minister.

6. Earl Russell succeeded Lord Palmerston as Premier; Mr. Gladstone became leader of the House of Commons; the ministry in other respects remained unchanged. The history of this administration is the history of the Liberal Reform Bill. The bill introduced by Mr. Gladstone in March, 1866, gave the franchise to householders of the value of £14 in counties and £7 in boroughs. It was evidently a compromise, and was not heartily support-

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ed either by the Cabinet or by the party. A section of the Liberals, called by Mr. Bright the "Cave of Adullam," joined the opposition in resisting it, and in June the ministry were defeated, and resigned. They were succeeded by a Conservative government, the principal members of which were Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli.

CHAPTER III.

MR. DISRAELI.

1. LORD DERBY promised a safe and moderate measure of reform. But the agitation throughout the country was very great. The war in Germany, which in six weeks made Prussia instead of Austria the dominant power in that country, passed almost unheeded. The somewhat cruel suppression of a rebellion in Jamaica by Governor Eyre was condemned by advanced Liberals. The laying of a telegraph cable between Ireland and Newfoundland gave hope to those who wished for a union of affection between two mighty continents. But the desire for reform was unmistakable. In July the Reform League was forbidden to hold a meeting in Hyde Park, but the masses

Reform agitation.

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who had accompanied them threw down the railings and pushed back the police who would have barred their passage. The reform addresses of Gladstone and Bright were received with enthusiasm.

2. At the beginning of the session of 1867, Mr. Disraeli proposed resolutions which were to be the basis of a reform bill. A considerable extension of the franchise was contemplated, limited by a system of plurality of votes. Parliament objected to this method, and it became necessary for ministers to agree in a definite measure. Of two alternative courses the more liberal was adopted; but Lord Carnarvon, Lord Cranbourne, and General Peel could not accede to it, and left the ministry. Mr. Disraeli expounded his measure in March. The proposed franchise was founded on rating, and not on rental. The franchise in boroughs was given to all householders paying rates; in counties it was given to occupiers of property rated at £15 a year. Besides this, the franchise was given to all men of a certain education, or who had saved a certain sum of money. In some cases voters were allowed a double vote in respect of possessing a double qualification.

Reform Bill introduced.

3. The bill was violently opposed by Mr.

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Gladstone, who objected to its provisions in almost every particular, but the section of his party who formed the "Cave of Adullam" declined to follow him in procuring the defeat of the government. Notwithstanding this, the measure was gradually changed, piece by piece, until it was entirely altered. The abolition of compound householders—that is, of those whose rates were paid for them in the lump by their landlords—nearly quadrupled the number of voters; lodgers were admitted to the franchise, the county franchise was reduced, and the distribution of seats was changed. The bill, as it was passed by both Houses, weary with argument, at the end of July, almost reached the limit of manhood suffrage. It had been passed by a Conservative ministry, and Lord Derby described it as a leap in the dark.

Amendments in committee.

4. It was necessary that Parliament should meet again in the autumn of 1867 to vote supplies for an expedition to Abyssinia, undertaken to release some Englishmen who were kept in prison by the king. The prisoners were released, and Magdala, the king's capital, destroyed. Early in the session of 1868, Lord Derby resigned the premiership from bad health, and

Return of the Liberals.

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was succeeded by Mr. Disraeli. It soon became obvious that the main point of struggle between the two parties would be the disestablishment of the Irish Church. At the end of March, Mr. Gladstone moved resolutions to that effect. The government had been defeated by small majorities before the Easter recess. In April it was beaten on the Irish Church question by a majority of eighty-five. Parliament was dissolved, and the result of the elections was a signal victory for the Liberals. The government did not wait for the opening of the session, but resigned their offices, and just before the close of 1868 Mr. Gladstone became prime minister.

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BOOK VIII.

1868–1874.

MR. GLADSTONE.

CHAPTER I.

IRISH CHURCH AND LAND.

Disestablishment of Irish Church.

1. THE chief members of Mr. Gladstone's Cabinet were Lord Hatherley, Mr. Lowe, Mr. Bruce, Lord Granville, Mr. Bright, and Mr. Childers. During its five years' tenure of office it showed a great activity in every branch of administrative reform. This could only have been maintained by a large majority in Parliament, directed by a chief of exceptional ability, at a time when the feeling of the country was wrought to an unusual strain. Its first efforts were directed to the removal of Irish grievances by the disestablishment of the Irish Church and the regulation of Irish land. The country had determined by the elections that the Irish branch of the Church of England should cease to exist un-

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der state protection. The working-out of that change was difficult and complicated. The arrangements proposed by Mr. Gladstone were passed by large majorities in the House of Commons, and met with no serious opposition in the House of Lords. Experience has shown the wisdom of the measure, and the large surplus resulting from it still remains to be applied to the material benefit of the country.

Irish Land Act.

2. The Irish Land Act passed in the session of 1870 was a matter of greater difficulty. Its object was to give such security to the tenant as might induce him to spend money in improving his holding, to lend money to landlords to be spent in improvements, to put a restraint on hasty and unjust evictions, and to establish a ready means of arbitration between landlord and tenant. The bill, though full of complicated provisions, met with little opposition in either House, and became law on the 1st of August.

Education Act.

3. The same session was occupied with another measure of first-rate importance. Mr. W. E. Forster produced a comprehensive Education Act to deal with primary education—that, namely, of the poorer classes. Time was given for differ-

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ent religious denominations to supply deficiencies in existing schools; but if that were not done, school-boards were to be created, who should provide at the cost of the rate-payer a cheap, universal, and unsectarian education. The result has surpassed the most sanguine hopes. Every year since the passing of the Act, the number of ignorant children has diminished. A great lift has been given to the educational system of the country; universities and public schools have undergone revision; and the country now only waits for the organized instruction of the middle classes.

CHAPTER II.

WAR BETWEEN FRANCE AND GERMANY.

1. THIS peaceful progress at home was not without violent contrast abroad. Since the defeat of Austria in 1866, a strong jealousy had existed between France and Prussia. War broke out suddenly in July, 1870. The successes of the Germans were rapid and unexpected. The French army was driven back from the Rhine; it was cut into two parts by a series of bloody battles; Marshal Bazaine was shut

Fall of the Emperor of the French.

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up with a large army in Metz; the emperor was driven into the Ardennes. Here he was surrounded by the consummate skill of Moltke, and forced to surrender at Sedan on September 1. On receipt of the news, the empire was abolished in Paris, the empress and her son fled to England.

2. Paris was invested by the German army, and soon began to suffer from famine. The siege was prolonged throughout the winter. About the middle of January, the success of the Germans became certain, and on January 18 King William of Prussia was saluted as German Emperor in the Galerie des Glaces at Versailles. Peace was made shortly afterwards. Alsace and Lorraine were ceded to Germany, and an indemnity of two hundred million pounds paid for the expenses of the war.

Peace.

3. The English government had with great skill and patience preserved the neutrality of the nation. This was tried most severely when the Russian government repudiated the clauses of the Treaty of Paris referring to the Black Sea. The matter was amicably arranged at a conference in London. The session of 1871 was not idle. Purchase in the army was abolished; the English civil service was made

Internal affairs.

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attainable by competition; the universities were thrown open to the whole country, without regard to religious denominations; trades-unions were recognized by the law; and the powers of local government were extended to country districts. In the winter the Prince of Wales became seriously ill, and in the middle of December the whole country waited in suspense for tidings of life and death. Before the beginning of the year he was out of danger.

CHAPTER III.

LIBERAL REVERSES.

1. In 1872 a system was adopted of electing Members of Parliament by ballot, or secret voting. This measure had long been urged by advanced Liberals and opposed by Conservatives. But the chief event of the year was the settlement of the so-called *Alabama* claims; that is, the compensation for damage done by this and other privateers in the American war. In accordance with the Treaty of Washington, these matters were arranged in a conference held at Geneva, in which the chief living

Alabama arbitration.

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authorities on international law formed the tribunal. The award was given against England, and a sum of nearly four million pounds had to be paid to America. But friendship between the two countries was restored at this small price, and a new principle of arbitration was asserted in public affairs.

Irish education.

2. The session of 1873 was intended by the government to remove another Irish grievance by establishing a system of Catholic university education. The measure had been carefully prepared by Mr. Gladstone, and it was introduced with good hope of success. But it was soon found that it satisfied neither party. The government were defeated, and the ministry resigned. Mr. Disraeli, however, refused to take office, and the seals were resumed by their former holders. A few changes were made in the Cabinet, and a Judicature Bill was passed, remodelling the whole system of judicial procedure.

Dissolution of Parliament.

3. The government were weakened and discredited. Seat after seat was won by the Conservatives. The Liberal majority became every day smaller and less compact. At last, in the beginning of 1874, Mr. Gladstone determined

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to appeal to the country, and, to the surprise of everybody, in January Parliament was dissolved. In five years the majority of Liberal supporters had dwindled from one hundred and sixteen to sixty-six. The result of the elections was a triumph for the Conservatives. The Cabinet did not wait for the meeting of Parliament. Mr. Disraeli accepted office as Premier, supported by Lord Derby, Lord Salisbury, Lord Carnarvon, Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Cross, and Mr. Hardy. Shortly after this, Mr. Gladstone announced that he had retired forever from the leadership of the Liberal party.

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CONCLUSION.

At the close of our period, it may be well to review the results of the policy which we have described in detail, and to compare the condition of England in 1875 with its condition at the close of the great Continental war. We will consider separately—1. Her population; 2. Her wealth; 3. The state of pauperism in the two periods; 4. The state of crime; 5. The condition of trade; 6. Food, education; 7. The extent of her dominion.

1. The population of Great Britain in 1811 was twelve millions; in 1875, it was twenty-seven millions and a half. At the first period she contained only nine per cent. of the whole population of the great powers of Europe—France, Germany, Austria, Russia. She now contains about thirteen per cent.

2. As an indication of wealth, in 1826 the United Kingdom paid £2 9*s*. 5*d*. a head for taxation. In 1876 she paid £2 1*s*. 5*d*. England is the only country in Europe in which the percentage of taxation in proportion to the population has diminished. The assess-

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ments to the income-tax in Great Britain in 1815 were a hundred and thirty millions; in 1875 they were five hundred and thirty-five millions and three quarters. In 1830 the deposits in savings-banks amounted to 11*s.* 4*d.* per head of the population. In 1876 they amounted to £2 2*s.* 6*d.* per head.

3. In 1813 the amount spent in the relief of the poor was eight millions and a half; that is, a cost of 15*s.* 2*d.* per head of the population. In 1876 the amount spent was seven millions and a quarter; that is, 6*s.* 1*d.* per head; yet we spend nearly three times as much on each pauper as we did five-and-thirty years ago.

The percentage of paupers to the population is now only three per cent.; at the close of the war it was more than eight per cent.

4. Crime has very largely diminished. The number of offences left undiscovered is probably much smaller than before. At the same time, the proportion of committals to the population is nearly one half of what it was. While all kinds of serious crime have decreased, offences against property have diminished more than all.

5. The value of British exports was in 1820 thirty-six millions and a half, and in 1876 two hundred millions and a half. Inland

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trade has probably increased quite as much in proportion.

This period has seen an enormous growth in the cotton and iron trades. It has witnessed the entire development of the railway system. The total receipts from railway traffic are now sixty millions a year.

6. Besides all this, the people are much better fed than they used to be, and the duration of life has probably increased.

The development of the press has done as much for popular education as the measures especially devoted to that end. In 1846 there were in the United Kingdom 551 newspapers; in 1877 there were 1692.

7. In 1829 the population of the English colonies was three millions and a quarter; in 1871 it was eleven millions and a half. At the same time, during the last hundred and thirty years, England has conquered two million six hundred and fifty thousand square miles of territory, and nearly two hundred and fifty millions of people.

From these facts we may conclude that the England of the present day is incomparably stronger, happier, and better than England at the time of the Regency. Also, that not only are Englishmen better fed, better taught, better governed, and more united

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than they were, but that the nation is, for all purposes of offence and defence, far stronger than it was at the time when it carried on the struggle against Napoleon.

These results are mainly due to the wisdom and patriotism of the statesmen who have controlled the destinies of the nation during the period we have described.

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